

REMARKS

This Amendment, filed in reply to the Office Action dated August 9, 2006, is believed to be fully responsive to each point of rejection raised therein. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration on the merits is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Inai et al. (US 4,437,111) in view of Konishi (US 4,774,564) and further in view of Nishiyama (US 5,293,225).

In the present Office Action, the Examiner concedes that Inai in view of Konishi fails to disclose wherein, when relatively increasing or decreasing the intensity of said color separating process, an occurrence of noise generation is not thereby increased during color separation. However, the Examiner has applied a new reference Nishiyama. The Examiner maintains that "In the same field of endeavor, Nishiyama teaches a color processing circuit which separates color component from multiplexed signal (abstract; Figs. 1 and 6: color signal processing circuit 5; Col. 4, Ln. 28-30; Col. 6, Ln. 33-Ln. 41). Nishiyama further teaches that the color processing circuit not only carries out color separation process, but carries out noise removal processing operation (abstract; Col. 7, Ln. 18- Col. 8, Ln. 51.) Therefore, regardless of the changes of light intensity in Inai and Konishi references, noise occurrences are not increased during the color separation process). In light of the teaching from Nishiyama, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Inai and Konishi to include a color processing circuit as taught by Nishiyama in order to perform noise removal operation and color separation process. The modifications thus provide clean color-separation out-put signals regardless of input signals." (Office Action, page 5)

As an initial matter, Applicant submits that one skilled in the art would not use the purported noise reduction in Nishiyama in Konishi. Konishi relates to a still camera. The noise reduction in Nishiyama calls for use of delay lines 407a, 407b giving a delay of a horizontal scanning period. (col. 5, lines 7-14) The delay signals are used for purposes of noise correction as applied to a color difference signal. The concepts of line delay and color differences characterize a moving picture but have no place in a still image camera. Therefore, one skilled in the art would have no expectation of success that noise reduction in Nishiyama would operate in Konishi.

The Examiner is not adhering to the explicit recitations of independent claims 1 and 4. The Examiner thinks that, although noise is added when the amplifiers in Konishi *allegedly* increase the intensity of color separation, Nishiyama (Interpolation/Color Signal Noise Removal Circuit 511) removes any noise added by Konishi. Assuming, *arguendo*, that Nishiyama can remove noise after increasing the intensity of the color separating process, the fact still remains that when increasing or decreasing the intensity of said color separating process, an occurrence of noise generation is increased. This fact alone is contrary to the recitations of claims 1 and 4, despite the Examiner's presumption that noise increased by the amplifiers in Konishi would later be removed by the process in Nishiyama. Also, the alleged increase in intensity of color separation itself in Konishi contradicts the claim language, and thus, the claim language does not read on the combination. Therefore, it is irrelevant that the Examiner presupposes that Nishiyama removes the noise caused by Konishi because Konishi fails to meet the claim features for which it was applied.

Additionally, Nishiyama discloses in Fig. 6 as well as col. 6, line 33 to col. 8, line 51 that the color signal processing circuit 5 includes the color signal separation circuit 506 for separating color signal components and the interpolation/color signal noise removal circuit 511 for also removing a noise (removing a noise component from the color difference signal), thus being capable of not only color separation but also noise removal. However, Nishiyama merely discloses a noise removal with the interpolation/color signal noise removal circuit 511 following the color separation process with the color signal separation circuit 506.

Hence, Nishiyama does not disclose that the color signal separation with the color signal separation circuit 506 itself prevents noise generation from increasing, nor disclose that noise generation would not be increased during color separation even when changing the intensity of the color signal separation with the color signal separation circuit 506, unlike claims 1 and 4 of the present application. In other words, the invention of claims 1 and 4 of the present application has the feature that "when relatively increasing or decreasing the intensity of the color separating process, an occurrence of noise generation is not thereby increased during color separation," which is clearly distinct from Nishiyama where the noise reducing process is made after the color separation process.

The color separating process in the present invention is a masking process, which would not increase noise generation when the intensity of the process is increased or decreased. On the contrary, the color signal separation process with the color signal separation circuit 506 disclosed in Nishiyama is a mere color separation, and thus what Nishiyama discloses is not that the color signal separation process with the color signal separation circuit 506 itself would not increase the noise generation but that the color signal separation process with the color signal separation

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circuit 506 is followed by the noise removal process with the interpolation/color signal noise removal circuit 511.

Applicant adds claims 14-18 to describe the invention more particularly.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

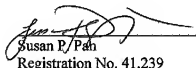
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